

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph starting on page 3, line 10 to read:

-- To accomplish the task the side walls of the connecting elements are developed such that they are profiled in cross section. This profiling can be attained through a ~~simple~~ or multiple curvature of the side walls or through ~~simple~~ or multiple bending or through a combination of curvatures and bendings. The profiling of the two side walls is selected such that a first region of each side wall, which adjoins the base plate of the connecting element, forms a first spring element and a second region of each side wall, which forms the free end region of this side wall, forms a second spring element. The first spring element therein permits movements of the side walls in a direction approximately parallel to the face of the base plate as well as at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the base plate. The second spring element permits movements at least in a direction approximately at right angles to the face of the base plate and to the longitudinal axis of the base plate. This region can, moreover, execute alone or together with the first spring element additional movements, for example in the direction parallel to the face of the base plate of the connecting element. When the connecting element is inserted into a hollow profile, the first regions of the two side walls of the connecting element are at least partially in contact on the two side walls of the hollow profile. The base plate of the connecting element is simultaneously in contact on a base plate of the hollow profile and the free end regions of the second region of each side wall of the connecting element are in contact on the top face of the hollow profile. Due to this disposition according to the invention the connecting element is optimally positioned in the hollow space of the hollow profile. Due to the side walls of the connecting element, resilient parallel as well as at right angles to the base face

of the connecting element, an optimal force-fit mounting into the two axial directions transversely to the longitudinal axis is attained. The side walls of the connecting element, springing-in in a relatively wide region, moreover permit adaptation to greater tolerances, i.e. dimensional discrepancies of the hollow space of the hollow profiles, without impairing the quality of the connection between connecting element and hollow profiles. The spring travels are in the range of 1% to 10% of the height or width, respectively, of the connecting element.